



EPA WORK ASSIGNMENT NO. 11-2665

EPA CONTRACT NO. 68-01-7250

EBASCO SERVICES INCORPORATED

**FINAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING SUMMARY
FOR THE
SCIENTIFIC CHEMICAL PROCESSING SITE
CARLSTADT BOROUGH, NEW JERSEY**

AUGUST 1987

NOTICE

The information in this document has been funded by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) under REM III Contract No. 68-01-7250 to Ebasco Services, Inc. (EBASCO).

004534

EBASCO SERVICES INCORPORATED

EBASCO

160 Chubb Avenue, Lyndhurst, NJ 07071 · (201) 460-1900

August 26, 1987
RMOII-87-330

Ms Lillian Johnson
Community Relations Coordinator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region II
26 Federal Plaza
New York, N Y 10278

SUBJECT: FINAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING SUMMARY
SCIENTIFIC CHEMICAL PROCESSING SITE
CARLSTADT BOROUGH, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY
WORK ASSIGNMENT NO. 11-2665
EPA CONTRACT NO. 68-01-7250

Dear Ms Johnson:

Ebasco Services Incorporated (EBASCO) is pleased to submit this Final Public Information Meeting Summary for the Scientific Chemical Processing site. If you have any comments, please call me at (201)460-6434 or Sheila Conway at (201)906-2400.

Very truly yours,

Dev R. Sachdev

Dev R Sachdev
REM III Region II Manager

DRS/HY:ff
Attachment

cc: M Shaheer Alvi
M K Yates
R T Fellman
C Andress
S Conway

004535

REM III PROGRAM

REMEDIAL PLANNING ACTIVITIES AT
SELECTED UNCONTROLLED HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE
DISPOSAL SITES WITHIN EPA REGIONS I-IV

EPA WORK ASSIGNMENT NUMBER: 11-2665

EPA CONTRACT NUMBER: 68-01-7250

FINAL PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING SUMMARY
SCIENTIFIC CHEMICAL PROCESSING SITE

CARLSTADT BOROUGH, NEW JERSEY

AUGUST 1987

Prepared by:

Carl Zappala/for 8/21/87
Sheila Conway Date
Community Relations
Specialist
ICF Incorporated

Approved by:

Teresa Callahan/for 8/26/87
Carol Andress Date
REM III Community
Relations Manager
ICF Incorporated

Dev R. Sachdev 8/25/87
Dev R. Sachdev Date
REM III Region II
Manager
Region II
Ebasco Services, Inc.

004536

FINAL PUBLIC INFORMATION SUMMARY
SCIENTIFIC CHEMICAL PROCESSING SITE

Carlstadt Borough, Bergen County, New Jersey

April 16, 1987

On April 16, 1987 at 8:00 p.m., the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) attended a town council meeting to brief local officials and residents regarding the Scientific Chemical Processing (SCP) Superfund site in Carlstadt Borough, New Jersey. The purpose of the briefing was to provide the town council and community members with information about the work plan for the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) that will be conducted by EPA at the site. Appended to this summary are 3 attachments: Attachment A outlines the agenda for EPA's presentation, Attachment B provides a fact sheet that was distributed at the meeting and Attachment C is a partial list of meeting participants. Approximately 20 people attended.

Lillian Johnson, EPA Region II Superfund Community Relations Coordinator; Ray Basso, EPA Chief for the Northern New Jersey Compliance Section; and Janet Feldstein, EPA Project Manager for the Scientific Chemical Processing site, represented EPA. EPA contractor personnel were represented by Sheila Conway, REM III Community Relations Specialist.

This public information meeting summary briefly describes:

- EPA presentations; and
- significant questions and concerns raised by residents and local and county officials.

Mayor Dominic Presto opened the meeting, took roll call, and presented Ms. Lillian Johnson.

EPA Presentations

Following an introduction by Lillian Johnson, Ray Basso began the meeting by providing an overview of the Superfund program. He described the history of the Comprehensive Environmental Response and Compensation Act (CERCLA) of 1980, and the recent Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), which provides \$8.5 billion for permanent remedial actions and new clean-up standards at hazardous waste sites. Mr. Basso explained that there are different ways to accomplish the required remedial actions at a site under the Superfund program. He stated that CERCLA section 104 authorizes the government to respond to the release of hazardous substances with a Fund-financed removal action or RI/FS, unless the government determines that the responsible parties will respond in a timely and proper manner. According to Mr. Basso, EPA may seek to compel potentially responsible parties (PRP) through litigation or an administrative order to clean up hazardous substances or to pay the costs of government response, or EPA may negotiate and settle with PRPs regarding RI/FS and site cleanup costs. EPA's enforcement process

004537

begins with identifying the PRPs for each site, which includes owners, operators, generators, and transporters of hazardous waste. Mr. Basso said that EPA has identified 139 PRPs at the SCP site and has offered them the opportunity to perform a RI/FS at the site. If the PRPs agree to carry out the appropriate actions, Mr. Basso explained that their consent is obtained in writing through a consent order issued by EPA. In cases where negotiations end without an agreement between EPA and the PRPs, EPA then may choose to issue unilateral administrative orders demanding that the PRPs take action. If the PRPs perform the RI/FS EPA continues to review all workplans submitted and provides stringent oversight. Mr. Basso then explained that the RI phase will include collection and analysis of samples taken from the soil, ground water, and surface water at the site.

After the RI is completed, Mr Basso explained that the Feasibility Study (FS) will be conducted. The FS will outline and evaluate the remedial alternatives. Mr. Basso said that possible remedial alternatives could include capping, removing and/or incinerating the hazardous materials. The evaluation criteria for the remedial alternatives include, according to Mr. Basso, the benefit to public health, the technical feasibility, the cost effectiveness, and the requirements of SARA in conjunction with state and local laws. Mr. Basso further stated that EPA will select a remedial alternative only after public input has been solicited. Mr. Basso said he expects the RI/FS to be completed in 1989, and the remediation of the SCP site to be completed in the mid-1990's.

Janet Feldstein next presented background information about the SCP site. Ms. Feldstein explained that the site was placed on the National Priorities List (NPL) because of improper waste management practices at the site, including the abandonment of many tanks and drums containing wastes. Ms. Feldstein reiterated that the PRPs have agreed to conduct the RI. She also said that out of the 139 PRPs identified, 108 had signed a consent order, and the remaining 31 had been issued a unilateral order. Ms. Feldstein briefly explained the upcoming field work schedule which she said may take between 19 weeks and 5 months to complete. The field work will include: drilling 10 wells for sampling, of which 7 will be shallow wells and 3 will be deep wells; taking soil samples from borings; sampling surface water from the creek; and finally, taking sediment samples from the creek bottom.

Ms. Feldstein said that the RI report will take 30 weeks to complete, and should be available to the public for review in Fall 1987. At that time, EPA will solicit public review of and comments on the RI report. Ms. Feldstein also assured the local officials that EPA's REM III contractor will supervise the PRP's contractor during all phases of the field work. This will include independent sampling by REM III contractors. Ms. Feldstein mentioned that all technical documents pertaining to the SCP site will be available for public review at the Carlstadt Borough Hall.

Question and Answer Session

Following the EPA presentations, Lillian Johnson opened up the meeting for a question and answer session which lasted about 30 minutes. The residents questions and comments focused on the following issues:

- concern over a tank remaining on the site;
- health concerns;
- polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination;
- EPA role at the site;
- ranking of the site on the National Priorities List (NPL); and
- site access.

A summary of residents' questions and comments and EPA responses has been organized according to these six issues and is presented below.

1. Concern over the remaining on-site tank and the sludge it contains. One resident asked why one tank was left on the site after all others had been removed, how much sludge was in the tank, and whether it was safe to leave the tank on the site property.

EPA Response : Ms. Feldstein responded that samples taken from the tank revealed levels of PCBs that should be incinerated rather than disposed of in a landfill. Metals mixed with the PCBs, however, make it impossible to incinerate the contents of the tank without prior treatment. After treatment to remove the metals, the waste can be incinerated. The 10 cubic yards of sludge in the tank have been secured and repackaged for safety.

2. Health concerns. One resident asked about health hazards at the site and the effects of coming into contact with contaminated soil.

EPA Response: Residents were advised by Ms. Feldstein that they should avoid any contact with contaminated material.

3. PCB contamination. Several residents asked about the presence of PCB and other potential carcinogens at the site, and whether these chemicals could enter the ground water.

EPA Response: Ms. Feldstein responded that PCB contamination of the soil is possible, however, PCB generally is not mobile in ground water. As for the presence of other carcinogens, it is possible that contaminants might have been present at the site in the 1970's. Sampling tests would reveal the presence of these contaminants. Although the bulk of the contaminated material has been removed from the site, EPA is concerned that a previous spillage could cause a significant problem with ground-water contamination.

4. EPA role at the site. Several residents asked how EPA staff viewed their function at this public meeting and when EPA would hold another meeting. They also asked how much EPA supervision the site would receive.

EPA Response: Ms. Feldstein responded that the purpose of the briefing was to ensure that good community relations were maintained between EPA and residents living near the site. The next public meeting is expected to be held at the completion of the RI. EPA assured the residents that the PRPs have hired excellent contractors to do a thorough investigation of the site, and that EPA contractors will provide full-time supervision of the PRP's contractor.

5. Ranking of the site on the NPL. One resident questioned whether the SCP site was ranked as the eleventh worst site in the state.

EPA Response: Ms. Feldstein stated that the Hazard Ranking System (HRS) is used to determine whether a site is placed on the NPL. The NPL is a list of all federal Superfund sites and not just New Jersey sites.

6. Site access. Several residents asked why and when access was restricted to the site, and whether this restriction would apply to the town fire department. These questions were followed up by concern about toxic fumes if a fire were to occur at the site.

EPA Response: Ms. Feldstein explained that access to the site was restricted in 1980 when drums that were susceptible to explosion were identified on site. While the site is secure, access to the site must remain restricted to prevent trespassers from coming in contact with possible groundwater and soil contamination. Since little is left on site that could burn, the risks of a fire and possible toxic fumes are negligible.

Following the question and answer session, Ms. Johnson provided attendees with an EPA telephone number to call with questions, and thanked individuals for attending the meeting. The meeting continued with town business.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION II
26 FEDERAL PLAZA
NEW YORK NEW YORK 10278

AGENDA

Town Council Meeting
Scientific Chemical Processing Site
Carlstadt Borough Hall
Carlstadt, New Jersey

April 16, 1987
8:00 P.M.

I. Introduction

Lillian Johnson, Superfund
Community Relations Coordinator
Office of External Programs
U.S. EPA, Region II

II. Overview of the Superfund Program

Ray Basso, Chief
Northern New Jersey
Compliance Section
U.S. EPA, Region II

III. Background and History of the
Scientific Chemical
Processing Site

and

Janet Feldstein, Project Manager
Scientific Chemical Processing Site
U.S. EPA, Region II

IV. Presentation on the Work Plan
for the Remedial Investigation
and Feasibility Study

V. Questions and Answers

VI. Closing

004541

United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Region 2
25 Federal Plaza
New York, N.Y. 10007

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EPA

Environmental Facts

APRIL 1987

SCIENTIFIC CHEMICAL PROCESSING SITE CARLSTADT BOROUGH, BERGEN COUNTY, NEW JERSEY

SITE DESCRIPTION/HISTORY

The Scientific Chemical Processing (SCP) site is located at 216 Paterson Plank Road in Carlstadt Borough, Bergen County, New Jersey. The site is a corner property, bounded by Paterson Plank Road to the south, Gotham Parkway to the west, Peach Island Creek to the north and an industrial facility to the east. The site is fenced on three sides, except the north, which is bounded by the creek. The site occupies a relatively flat, sparsely-vegetated area of approximately 5.9 acres in the Hackensack Meadowlands.

Scientific Chemical Processing, Inc. used the site for industrial waste recycling operations from 1971 until October, 1980. Prior to 1971, the site was reportedly operated by others for solvent refining and recovery since the 1950's.

While in operation, the SCP facility processed wastes from chemical and other industrial manufacturing firms to reclaim marketable products. Operations at the site ceased in 1980 by order of the New Jersey Superior Court. At that time, over 300,000 gallons of wastes were stored on site in various tanks and a number of drums. During 1984, the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP) supervised the property owner's removal of many of the tanks, tank trailers, and drums. In October, 1985, EPA issued an Administrative Order to the property owner for the completion of

004542

the surface cleanup. At the present time, the property owner has removed all but one tank from the site; this tank has been secured and EPA is awaiting its ultimate treatment and disposal.

SCP REMEDIAL INVESTIGATION AND FEASIBILITY STUDIES (RI/FS)

Now that the surface cleanup has been substantially completed, the responsible parties (see Background) can proceed with the field work associated with the Remedial Investigation. This work will include an investigation of possible soil, groundwater and surface water contamination, through the collection and analysis of samples from these media. Field work is expected to begin this month. In approximately 30 weeks, the responsible parties will submit a Draft Remedial Investigation Report (RI) to EPA, for review and comment. When EPA is satisfied that all necessary work has been completed, the report will be finalized. The Responsible Parties will then conduct a Feasibility Study (FS) in order to evaluate possible remedial alternatives. The RI/FS will be available for public review and comment. EPA will also hold a public meeting to discuss the results of the studies and to invite public comments.

BACKGROUND ON "SUPERFUND"

In December, 1980, Congress enacted the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly known as "Superfund". The Act authorized EPA to provide long-term remedies at hazardous waste sites, and established a \$1.6 billion fund, raised over five years from special industry taxes and general revenues, to pay for cleanups. In 1986, Congress reauthorized Superfund by enacting the Superfund Amendments and Reauthorization Act (SARA), increasing the fund to \$8.5 billion and strengthening the cleanup process.

Superfund calls for EPA to compile a National Priorities List of hazardous wastes sites which are candidates for remedial action. A priority site can be cleaned up in several ways:

- The responsible party(s) can clean it up voluntarily.
- The responsible party(s) can be forced to clean it up by legal and administrative action.
- Superfund monies may be used to finance the cleanup. If there is difficulty in getting the responsible party(s) to act, EPA will proceed under Superfund and seek later to recover its costs through legal action.

At all priority sites, a Remedial Investigation will be conducted. The investigation is designed to collect and analyze the data necessary to justify the remedial action and to support development of possible remedial alternatives. Then, a Feasibility Study will be conducted. This study consists of a detailed evaluation of different remedial alternatives on the basis of benefits to human health, environment, technical feasibility and costs. At the conclusion of the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS), EPA will select the remedy for the site, and proceed with detailed design and construction.

Responsible Parties under Superfund include site owners and operators, as well as generators and transporters of waste which was treated, stored or disposed of at the site.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS AT SCP

At the SCP site, EPA has identified 139 Responsible Parties, including owners, operators, generators and transporters. These parties were offered the opportunity to perform an RI/FS at the SCP site.

When responsible parties perform work at a Superfund site, they will generally do so pursuant to an Administrative Order, a document which sets forth legal requirements for the performance of the work. EPA has issued two Administrative Orders for the SCP site; 108 parties signed a Consent Order for the RI/FS and the remaining 31 parties were issued a Unilateral Order, requiring them to participate with the consenting parties. Although these responsible parties will be paying for the RI/FS, EPA will utilize Superfund monies to provide oversight of the studies. EPA's representative will observe field work and split samples for independent analyses.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

For further information concerning the site activities, please contact Isabel Funcia, Community Relations Specialist, Office of External Programs, at 800-346-5009. Ms. Funcia is located at EPA's Region II Office in New York City.

004544

ATTACHMENT C

PLEASE SIGN IN

NAME	ADDRESS OR AFFILIATION
1. J. Furia	EPA (212) 264-2515
2. J. Conway	CONSULTANT EPA (212)
3. R. J. Basso	EPA (212) 264-1858
4. Janet Feldstein	EPA (212) 264-0613
5. Boris Giklori	CARLSTADT RESIDENT 935 E 12
6. Thomas J. McGee	COUNCILMAN
7. JOHN W. MYERS	"
8. Bob J. Geringer	COUNCILMAN
9. John Langan	Attorney
10. Daniel Dub	Mayor
11. Claire Foy	Borough Clerk
12. [Signature]	[Signature]
13. [Signature]	Captain [Signature]
14. [Signature]	City [Signature]
15. Robert [Signature]	COUNCILMAN
16. _____	_____
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